GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
PROBLEMS OF POWER SECTOR
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power sector of the country has been caught in multiple crises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the power problem lies not in installation flaws or generation capacity but the real problem lies in the estimation of demand and the actual availability;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) : Power sector is facing numerous challenges and efforts are being made by the Government to address these. Some of major challenges being faced by the power sector include shortage of coal, shortage of gas and poor financial health of Distribution Companies (DISCOMS).

(c) & (d) : The All India Peak Electricity Demand as per the 17th EPS and the actual demand at power station Bus Bars during the last three years of the 11th Plan are as follows:-

Year	Peak Electricity Demand (as per 17th EPS) (MW)	Peak Electricity Demand (actual) (MW)	Deviation (%)
2009-10	131413	119166	9.3
2010-11	141678	122287	13.7
2011-12	152746	130006	14.9

From the above, it is seen that the Peak Electricity Demand as per 17th EPS was slightly higher than the actual electricity demand in the country. Therefore, the estimation of electricity demand cannot be cited as a reason for power sector crisis in the country.

(e) : Several steps have been initiated by the Government to meet the challenges in the power sector. These include persuading Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL) to enhance production of coal in the country; import of coal, to the extent technically feasible, to bridge the gap between its requirement and availability from domestic sources; thrust on ramping up production of coal by captive coal block allottees from existing mines and expedite commissioning of new coal blocks; initiation of steps by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to augment production of natural gas from the gas fields/wells; and notification of a scheme for financial restructuring of the state distribution companies (DISCOMS) by the Ministry of Power on 05.10.2012 to enable the turnaround of the state DISCOMs and ensure their long term viability.